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A concerned Barrington resident's view of the proposed sale of the Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway to Canadian National Railway.

The Village of Barrington in Cook and Lake Counties and the surrounding area are facing a disastrous situation that could destroy the quality of life of the residents as well as the viability of their business districts.

The purchase of the Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway by the Canadian National Railway will be devastating to Barrington and the neighboring towns.

The EJ&E line runs through the heart of Barrington. If the CN buys EL&E, the number of freight trains would increase from approximately 3 to 5 to 20 each day. In addition, CN plans to permit four additional railroads access to the EJ&E line that would further increase daily use by freight trains through Barrington. Although it is impossible at this time to estimate the number of freight trains from the other railroads, the 20 CN freight trains take an average of 6 minutes to pass through a single railroad crossing. That means that each railroad crossing would be closed a minimum of 2 hours every day without including the freight traffic from the other four freight lines. The gridlock created by just adding 15 more freight trains from CN at each of the four railroad crossings in the Village, would essentially curtail all vehicular traffic in the Village, impeding school bus movement to and from schools and interrupt ambulance service to Good Shepherd Hospital. The delays would eventually destroy the viability and vitality of the community.

There are a number of other facts and issues concerning the sale of the EJ&E to CN that impact Barrington:

1. The EJ&E line essentially cuts Barrington in half, with downtown and the middle schools on one side and the high school and Good Shepherd Hospital on the other. Ambulances rushing to the hospital, delayed at a railroad crossing, could be life threatening. For school children, buses encountering crossing delays can make them late to school and could double or triple the time spent on the bus. It would also increase a child's bus time on their ride home from school. The school bus company said their buses cross the EJ&E tracks 370 to 400 times a day. For those children walking or bike riding to school, railroad crossings present a serious safety hazard.

Rail commuters are also at risk and are faced with the same delays.

2. The Village of Barrington has worked diligently to develop its downtown business district. If shoppers and diners find it too difficult to get into Barrington because of blocked railroad crossing, they will go to other towns with easy access and by pass Barrington. To retain the good will of shoppers and diners, eliminating railroad cross delays is vital.

3. With, at least, four times the number of railroad crossing delays daily, the property values, both residential and commercial will plummet. One of the reasons to live in Barrington is a safe country environment with downtown amenities. With the increase in freight trains and the limited access to the village, schools and the hospital, the residential and business property values will decline.

4. If the sale to CN is consummated, noise pollution from the freight trains will be more frequent. Currently, residents near rail crossing are complaining that the noise from 3 to 5 freight trains daily is not only annoy but disturbs their sleep. By increasing the number of freight trains to 20 and more, the noise pollution would be devastating.

5. Barrington's new Citizens Park, which is adjacent to the EJ&E line, will also be negatively affected by the frequency of the freight trains. The trains will eliminate easy access to the Park and its use by residents and others. The \$14,000,000 bond issue that made the Park a reality will have been for naught.

To preserve the Village of Barrington's reputation as a safe and vibrant community—a great place to live, we need to continue the Barrington tradition that invites people to come live in Barrington and enjoy the benefits of an outstanding educational system for children, an excellent hospital, and a place where traffic and pedestrian safety is a major concern and the well-being of its citizens is a priority. Help SAVE Barrington.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas W. Karon", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Thomas W. Karon